

REPORT

DATE: April 11, 2008

TO: Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Naresh Amatya, Acting Manager, Transportation Planning
amatya@scag.ca.gov, (213) 236-1813

SUBJECT: Regional Transit Center in the City of Torrance

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend inclusion of the proposed Regional Transit Center in the City of Torrance in the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP.


BACKGROUND:

Staff has received a request from the City of Torrance to include a Regional Transit Center project within the City of Torrance into the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP. This is a new project that is not included in any of SCAG's planning or programming documents. SCAG Staff has reviewed the attached information provided by the City of Torrance in support of this project. Based on the preliminary review of the information provided, staff supports proposed request to include this project in the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Reviewed by:




Division Manager

Reviewed by:



Acting, Department Director

Reviewed by:



FOR WAYNE MOORE
Chief Financial Officer



CITY OF TORRANCE

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

Kim Turner
Transit Director

310.618.6245
kturner@tornet.com

April 9, 2008

The Honorable Alan Wapner, Chair
SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee

Dear Chair Wapner:

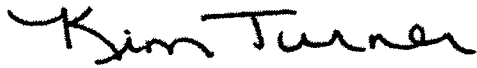
We would like consideration to have our Regional Transit Center (RTC) in the City of Torrance included in SCAG's RTP Strategic Plan. Specifically, we would like consideration under Action Items 5.1(d) on the TCC agenda for April 11, 2008. We understand the lateness of our request and we would appreciate any consideration for what we believe is a very worthwhile capital project.

We have enclosed a fact sheet on our RTC project, Transit Center Project Revision PowerPoint presentation, and drawings of the plans to extend Del Amo Blvd. from Crenshaw Boulevard through to Madrona Avenue. This extension, anticipated to be completed in mid-2011 is critical in facilitating the usage of the site as a bus transfer station. Initially, the site would be used as a bus transfer station. The site lies on the Harbor Subdivision which is included in Metro's Strategic Unfunded Tier 2 projects. The City of Torrance believes this site would be ideal for a rail station on a future light rail line on the Harbor Subdivision. Also included is a preliminary map showing possible routings of local services into this RTC.

We have enclosed support letters for this project from Senator Oropeza (28th District), Assemblymember Lieu (53rd District), Los Angeles County Supervisor Knabe, and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). We have also included the current list of projects for the SBCCOG which includes this project. The City of Torrance has had initial discussions with Rep. Jane Harman (36th District) and her staff regarding funding for this project.

The City of Torrance is also working in cooperation with the City of Redondo Beach in both of our cities' efforts to build transit centers in our cities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Turner
Transit Director

Enclosures:

1. South Bay Regional Transit Centers
2. Transit Center Project Revision PowerPoint presentation
3. Drawing of Del Amo Blvd extension to Crenshaw Blvd
4. Map of proposed service to COT RTC
5. February 20, 2008 Support Letter from Assemblymember Lieu and Senator Oropeza
6. February 22, 2008 Support Letter from Supervisor Knabe
7. January 28, 2008 Support Letter from South Bay Cities COG
8. April 5, 2008 List of South Bay Transportation Projects (SBCCOG)

South Bay Regional Transit Centers

PROJECT FAST FACTS

Purpose: To develop two new regional Transit Centers in the City of Torrance and the City of Redondo Beach.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Site Acquisition (Est.) | Fall 2008 |
| Planned Start Date: | Fall 2009 |
| Completion Date: | Fall 2011 |

Funding:

- Regional Transit Centers are a High Priority funding project
- Torrance - \$1.5 Million Planning Grant (Initial)
- Redondo Beach - \$2.2 Million

Project Locations:

- Redondo Transit Center – South Bay Galleria (Kingsdale Avenue)
- Torrance Transit Center – Crenshaw Blvd. and Del Amo Blvd.

Benefits of A Regional Project For Redondo, Torrance and the South Bay:

- Leveraging of existing funds and allows for joint funding requests in the future per a regional approach
- Avoids project duplication by the sharing of services and resources
- Allows for ease of future service expansion for both cities
- Crenshaw Transit Center location is adjacent to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) owned rail line
- Direct access to:
 - ❖ 405 Freeway High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes, Regional Rapid services, and Existing light rail services
- Consistent with SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan
- Highest and best use of existing land for both agencies
- A hub for local and regional connectivity for:
 - ❖ Torrance Transit System, Beach Cities Transit, Gardena Transit, Municipal Area Express (MAX), Los Angeles County Metro
- Parking spaces for Rideshare Van/Carpool participants
- Enhanced shelters, fare vending machines and public restrooms

TTS Annual Ridership Data (Lines Operating Near the Proposed Centers):

South Bay Galleria

| Route | Boardings | Alightings |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Line 2 (NB) | 10,230 | 12,710 |
| Line 2 (SB) | 2,170 | 9,610 |
| Line 8 (NB) | 17,014 | 48,508 |
| Line 8 (SB) | 10,498 | 35,838 |

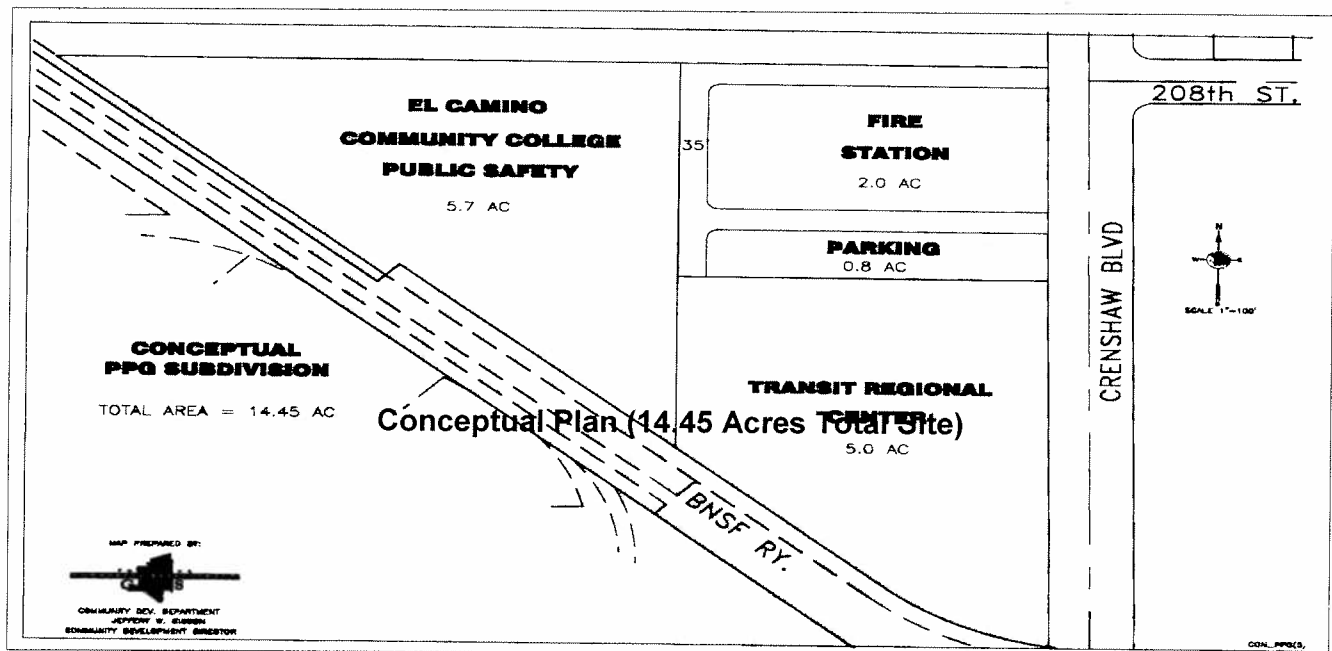
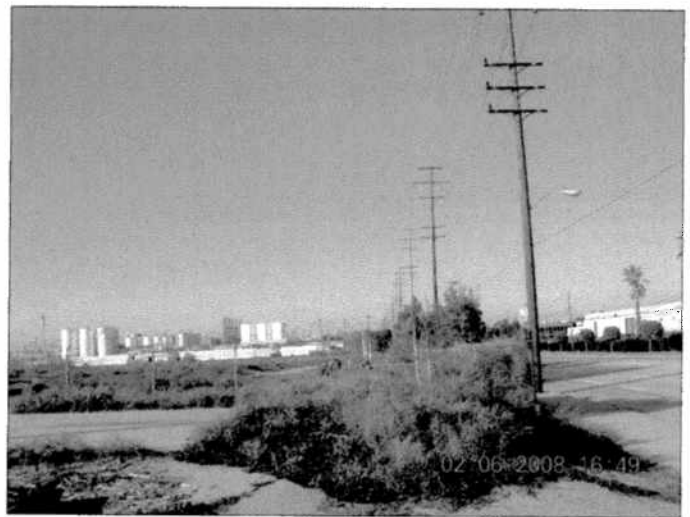
Crenshaw Blvd. And Del Amo Blvd.

| Route | Boardings | Alightings |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Line 5 (NB) | 1,285 | 1,028 |
| Line 5 (SB) | 2,570 | 3,598 |
| MAX 3 (AM) | 3,341 | N/A - Rapid |
| MAX 3 (PM) | 5,397 | N/A - Rapid |



TORRANCE
TRANSIT

Photographs of Potential Transit Center Site At Crenshaw and Del Amo (Current State)



TORRANCE
TRANSIT

PROPOSED SERVICE TO REGIONAL TRANSIT CENTER



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0053
(916) 319-2053
FAX (916) 319-2153
DISTRICT OFFICE
500 CENTER STREET
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245
(310) 615-3515
FAX (310) 615-3520

assemblymember.lieu@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



TED W. LIEU
FIFTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

COMMITTEE MEMBER
BANKING AND FINANCE, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
VETERANS AFFAIRS
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
SELECT COMMITTEE
AEROSPACE, CHAIR

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Pam O'Connor
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: TORRANCE TRANSIT CENTER

Dear Chair O'Connor:

As the elected representatives of the City of Torrance, we are jointly writing to respectfully request that the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority add a proposed transit center located in Torrance to Metro's Regional Transportation Plan.

As you know, the City of Torrance is the 12th largest city in California and the sixth largest in Los Angeles County with a night time population of approximately 150,000 residents. During working hours, the city's population swells to more than 600,000, many of whom use the major arterials that flow from the 405 and 110 freeways. This surge of traffic leaves the city with some of the most congested streets anywhere in the county.

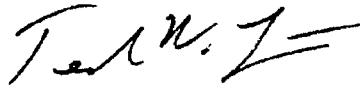
That said the city has no viable transit center or hub. The lack of a significant transit center has nothing to do with the city's lack of desire for such a facility, but rather is due to a lack of available land large enough to be utilized for such a purpose. However, a prime piece of real estate has recently become available that would not only serve the City's purposes, but would also serve regional transit needs and the long-term interests of Metro.

The parcel under consideration by the city is situated next to an existing rail line owned by Metro. The undeveloped property is owned by Pittsburg Paint & Glass (PPG) and they have expressed an interest in selling this parcel to the City of Torrance at a competitive price should Torrance be able to secure funding. The city will contribute its own funds to the project, but is unable to secure the full amount. The city is soliciting additional funds from the federal government and from Metro. On behalf of the valued members of my constituency, I respectfully urge you to give the City of Torrance the utmost consideration for this vital project and also ask for your assistance to have this

item placed in Metro's Regional Transportation Plan so it may be given consideration for funding.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, our offices, or the City of Torrance directly with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,



TED W. LIEU
Assemblymember, 53rd District



JENNY OROPEZA
State Senator, 28th District

Cc: Roger Snoble, CEO, Metro
The Honorable Frank Scotto, Mayor, City of Torrance
LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager, City of Torrance



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4444 / FAX (213) 626-6941

DON KNABE
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM

February 22, 2008

The Honorable Pam O'Connor
Chairperson
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952

Dear Chair *Pam* O'Connor:

SUBJECT: TORRANCE TRANSIT CENTER

On behalf of the City of Torrance, an important City and constituency within my District, I respectfully request that the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) add a proposed transit center located in Torrance to Metro's Regional Transportation Plan.

As you know, the City of Torrance is the 12th largest City in California, and the fourth largest in Los Angeles County with a night time population of approximately 150,000 residents. That said, the City has no viable transit center or hub. The lack of a significant transit center has nothing to do with the City's lack of desire for such a facility, but rather is due to a lack of available land large enough to be utilized for such a purpose. However, a prime piece of real estate has recently become available that would not only serve the City's purposes, but would also serve regional transit needs and the long-term interests of Metro.

The parcel under consideration by the City is situated next to an existing rail line owned by the Metro. The undeveloped property is owned by Pittsburg Paint & Glass and they have expressed an interest in selling this parcel to the City at a competitive price should the City be able to secure funding. The City will contribute its own funds to the project, but is unable to secure the full amount. The City is soliciting additional funds from the federal government and from Metro. On behalf of the valued members of my constituency, I respectfully urge you to give the City of Torrance the utmost consideration for this project and also ask for your assistance to have this item placed in Metro's Regional Transportation Plan so it may be given consideration for funding.

COUNCIL BOXES

2/27/08

MY REQUEST OF

*cc: Kim Turner
Eleanor B. Jones*

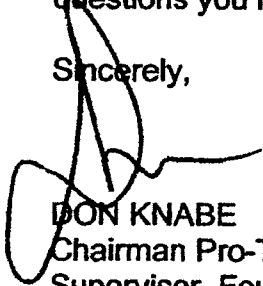
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OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL

The Honorable Pam O'Connor
February 22, 2008
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please contact me, or my South Bay Deputy Steve Napolitano, at (310) 222-3015, or the City of Torrance directly with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DON KNABE', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

DON KNABE
Chairman Pro-Tem
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles

DK:ha

c: Roger Snoble, CEO, Metro
Mayor Frank Scotto, City of Torrance
LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager, City of Torrance



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5033 Rockvalley Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 377-8987
sbccog@southbaycities.org
www.southbaycities.org

January 28, 2008

COUNCIL BOXES 2/4/08
ATT. REQUEST OF FS.

Mayor Frank Scotto and Members of the City Council
City of Torrance

Re: Support for Torrance Regional Transit Center Proposal

As you are aware, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) works to promote transit service in the South Bay. For this reason we are very supportive of the proposal that the City of Torrance is developing to establish a regional transit center adjacent to the Harbor Subdivision railway at approximately Crenshaw and Maricopa Avenue. This right-of-way is publicly owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) and is currently under study for future passenger services

Based on our conversation with your staff, it is very clear that Torrance needs a transit center immediately. We are supportive of this worthy project. By establishing as quickly as possible a regional transit center that provides public transit accessibility now and in the future will serve a possible rail line and the freeway system, the City of Torrance would significantly improve services and increase coordination. It also would make all transit services more attractive and convenient for South Bay patrons.

Although the South Bay is served with bus transit by the local municipal operators and Metro, our area has long been under-served in the regional rail system planning. We maintain our strong interest in using the Harbor Subdivision for future rail service but we understand that it will be a long time in coming. Therefore, the need for a transit center is even more acute.

The SBCCOG stands ready to support the city as this proposal goes forward. Please let us know if there are ways that we can assist to bring this center to fruition.

Sincerely,

Jacki Bacharach
SBCCOG Executive Director

cc: LeRoy Jackson, City Manager, Torrance
Pam O'Connor, Chair, LA Metro
Claudette Moody, L.A. Metro

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OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita Los Angeles Manhattan Beach
Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills Rolling Hills Estates Torrance

REPORT

DATE: April 11, 2008
TO: Transportation and Communications Committee
FROM: Naresh Amatya, Acting Manager, Transportation Planning
amatya@scag.ca.gov, (213) 236-1813
SUBJECT: Truck Climbing Lanes in Coachella Valley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend inclusion of the proposed truck climbing lanes, on I-10 near Chiraco Summit and Blythe areas in Coachella Valley, in the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP.


BACKGROUND:

As part of the comments on the Draft 2008 RTP, SCAG has received a request from the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to include plans for Truck Climbing Lanes, on I-10, near the Chiraco Summit and Blythe areas, be included in the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP. This is a new project that is not included in any of SCAG's planning or programming documents. SCAG Staff has reviewed the information provided by CVAG in support of this project. Based on the preliminary review of the information provided, staff supports proposed request to include this project in the Strategic Plan of the 2008 RTP.

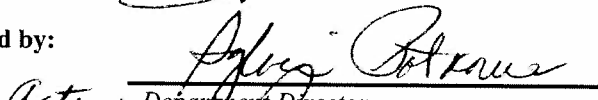
FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

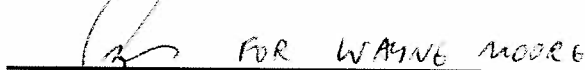
Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Acting; Department Director

Reviewed by:


FOR WAYNE MOORE
Chief Financial Officer

2008 Regional Transportation Plan Comments from CVAG

To: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
From: Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
Date: February 19, 2008
Subject: Comments to the SCAG 2008 RTP

As a SCAG subregion, CVAG has carefully reviewed the draft 2008 RTP released by SCAG for public comments. CVAG staff has attended the SCAG sponsored RTP workshops and participated in the many RTP presentations and reviews over the past few months. CVAG realizes the importance of this document, to provide a framework for the future development of our regional transportation system.

The collective projects identified in the RTP document are a collaborative and comprehensive plan, addressing the transportation needs of the region for the next 20 years. After careful review of all segments of the draft RTP Plan, CVAG has some serious comments to discuss, and requests for inclusion in the Plan.

The CVAG subregion is a fast growing area of Southern California, with major development of affordable residential housing, expanding employment centers, and continually expanding tourist destination resorts. CVAG would like to see more emphasis on the importance of the CVAG jurisdictions as an expanding population center for the region, included in the Plan.

With the many approved CVAG and Coachella Valley RTIP, RTP and Arterial Projects submitted by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) for the growing CVAG areas, we have identified an RTIP project that has been left out. In the city of Indian Wells, west city limits to Cook Street, widen from four to six lanes, by 2012, with a cost of \$1,082,000. Please add this project to the corrected RTP Plan.

CVAG, working with SCAG Compass staff, held many workshops and presentations for the planning staffs, electeds, and city managers from CVAG jurisdictions. Careful consideration was given to reviewing growth data and developing a technically accurate and acceptable baseline forecast for the CVAG subregion. CVAG is very concerned with SCAG discussions of intent to adjust and manipulate the approved baseline forecast, to a "policy" forecast. With the "policy" forecast, thousands of Riverside County's expected population growth would be shown as population numbers, residing in the coastal communities of Southern California. As we are all aware, affordable residential housing is readily available in the CVAG subregion, and in other areas of Riverside County, but the housing costs in the coastal communities is prohibitive, and affordable for only the very wealthy. The "policy" forecast plan concerns CVAG greatly, along with the consequences of transportation funds inappropriately transferred to coastal areas, taking away from Riverside County, where the actual growth is taking place.

Correct and accurate airport information needs to be added to the RTP. Specifically, the CVAG subregion has the Palm Springs International Airport, located in the city of Palm Springs, along with the General Aviation Airports located in the eastern areas of Riverside County, east of the Coachella Valley. Airports are located in Thermal, Blythe, Chiraco Summit, and Desert Center.

To the Riverside County Strategic Plan Projects, CVAG is requesting the addition of two projects that we have been assured by SCAG, would be included in the 2008 RTP. The Palm Springs International Airport must be added to the High Speed Rail connections of the other Southern California major airports. With a population that will reach one million in the next twenty years, and as a major tourist destination, the Palm Springs International Airport must be included in the High Speed Rail plans.

CVAG is requesting plans for Truck Climbing Lanes, on I-10, near the Chiraco Summit and Blythe areas, be included in the 2008 RTP. We are all aware of the volume of trucks involved with goods movement in these areas, and the serious accidents caused by trucks slowing automobile traffic in this segment of I-10, east of the Coachella Valley, in eastern Riverside County.

Please add these additions and corrections to the 2008 RTP, to help make this a complete and accurate document.